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To: eReference

Subject: e-patent reference feature
Commissioner

The proposal is another reason for discouragement with the PTO. Having practioners access patents on-line transfers costs to applicant, and makes the job more difficult. Plainly, quick flipping back and forth within the document, speed reading and scanning of a paper document is not matched by any screen-presented document.

So, what the PTO is doing is transferring the work of getting or making copies to the practitioners. Those who want paper copies will just have to order them separately.

At least the PTO ought to provide the applicant with the option of having the PTO automatically mail for a fee paper copies of the patent documents.

And, the PTO should not require paper copies with any information disclosure statement, if the e-patent reference feature is so good.

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